



Pompton Reformed Church  
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Looking Forward  
A message from the editor

This is our first newsletter since the departure of our beloved pastor and friends, Tom and Mary. I know I am feeling a bit down despite sending them off with good wishes for happy retirement from the daily work of PRC. We know Tom and Mary will pursue God's calling in all they do and spread their kind of midwest hospitality to all they encounter. That being said, we will mourn for a bit as we get on the business of finding a new pastor to lead our congregation forward.

In light of this, I feel as if all the upheaval we have experienced is God calling to PRC to "be more" .....

- Be more open to change
- Be more flexible
- Be more friendly
- Be more Christ-like in all endeavors
- BE MORE!

There is still much happening here at PRC and we need to keep informed and keep busy as the search team gets going with the process. The PRC newsletter has always been a vital link to activities and events coming up, information of interest to the congregation and news from members.

I invite you to step forward and write the front page of the newsletter, in the pastor's absence, so it may continue to be a source of encouragement, information and news to members and friends nearby and far away. There is a wealth of insight among our membership. Please feel free to send me your thoughts, dreams and visions of Pompton Reformed as we re-form in the next step of our journey with Christ.

Karen Huysers  
Newsletter editor

## May Means Memories

By Elaine Peacock



When I think of May, along with the sunny, late spring weather, my mind fills with memories; memories of my mom and memories of our veterans.

Memories of my mom are bittersweet. Since I lost mom in 2012 there isn't a day that goes by that something doesn't trigger a memory of fun times we shared, places we have had lunch or just a day doing something as simple as a ride to some special destination. I miss those days and I'm sure many of you have your own special memories of your mom.

When Memorial Day rolls around each year; I think about all our veterans, past, present and those to come and how much their sacrifices mean to all of us. I think about all the Riverdale parades I have been in since my days as a brownie and up to today as a senior. Riverdale's parade has been a part of my life for many years, too many to count but I can still close my eyes and see me lining up on Morris Avenue in my brownie uniform waiting to start that long walk to the soldier monument in front of the school where we would hear the names of Riverdale's veterans that gave the ultimate sacrifice. So when May rolls around take a few moments to think of the special memories in your life and maybe even make a few new ones.

## ROUND TABLE OF THANKS



- Elinor Connor, for her years of faithfully cleaning the sanctuary every Monday, straightening hymnals and restocking all prayer cards.
- Office volunteers, assisting in many tasks: Nancy Shimmel, Madge Schlapfer, Corinne Tyndall, Helen Gioia, Mary Bartha and Laura Beiner
- All who helped with the community breakfast, 48 in house volunteers that served and socialized with 163 people from the community.

Missions Update from Bruce and Laurie Hawley



Dear Friends,

We recently returned from a mission trip to High River, Canada. What a setting it was! The Rocky Mountains were perhaps 30 miles west of us, and each morning we could watch the sun light up the snow-capped peaks. We were there, not as leaders, but as volunteers, supporting World Renew's two-year commitment to repair homes and lives damaged by a major flood. Once again, we were reminded it is not just about the work, but about the people.

One of the families we worked for was Russ and his wife, whom we never met. She was struggling with dementia, and he was just struggling. He felt she was unreasonably demanding, unappreciative, uncooperative, and generally tough to live with. We made time to listen. In conversation, he talked about who she had been all those years, and how hard it was to see, and live with, the change. As he talked about it, he came to realize it was not her fault and she could do nothing to help herself, as her mind continued to drift away. The realization gave him some bit of peace and a renewed resolve to be patient.

As we listened to Russ, we couldn't help thinking about Laurie's mom whose health is declining and Alzheimer's is rapidly advancing. Since November mom has been hospitalized three times and we have moved her into a memory care facility. We are blessed to be able to give her daily care and love.

It also led us to look back on our 20 years of ministry as full time missionaries with the RCA. As we reflect on that time it is the people like Russ and his family that stick out. It is their stories and also the stories of the volunteers that have given their time, talents, treasures to help them at their times of greatest need. It is the story of how we all learned from each other and all grew in our faith because we got to know each other and worked side by side, even if only for one week.

It was 1996 when we first answered God's call to become full time missionaries with the RCA. We marvel at the people we have met, the places we have seen, and what God has done to us, in us and through us. We never could have imagined! Since 2000, we have been leading groups of volunteers all over the US, and also Central and South America and Africa. Wherever we went, we felt comforted by God's presence and uplifted by your prayers. We have been blessed by your faithful support.

The time has come for us to retire. We will miss the camaraderie of workgroups and the joy of knowing we are sharing Christ's love with those in great need. Still, we are sure God has a plan for us, for each of us, and we are excited about that.

To each of you, a heartfelt thanks, We have been blessed by your fellowship, your support and your prayers.

In his service, Bruce and Laurie Hawley.

## Last Chance!

**Scholarship Application Packets Available:** High school seniors and college students may obtain packets for the PRC scholarship application from the Church office. Student must be a worshipping member of PRC, or a dependent of a PRC member. The deadline for return of all application materials is May 8, 2016.

### *Upcoming Fellowship Dates*

June 12- Strawberry Social  
July 17- Ice Cream Soda Social  
August 14- Ice Cream Sundae Social  
September 11- Church Picnic  
October 15- Autumnfest  
December 18- Cookie Social



### Autumnfest Update

Autumnfest 2016 will be here before you know it. Autumnfest 2016 will take place on October 15 from 10:00 a.m. until 4 p.m. This only gives us 168 days to get prepared! This year our inside spaces for Vendors and Crafters may be limited due to the roof construction. If you want an inside space please let me know immediately. I will be sending contracts out in late May. The price will stay the same. Inside spaces will cost \$25.00 and outdoor spaces will cost \$20.00. The contract will be on the website soon.

We will be asking for donations of homemade baked goods for our Dot Ploch Bake Table. Please remember we must put the ingredients on the baked goods. At this time of the year the breads and pies go quickly. But we also need brownies, cakes, cupcakes, and cookies. We will begin emailing and calling for donations in August. This is one of our largest money makers. The more baked goods we have, the more money we make. So if you bake we would appreciate your help. Lorna Carroll and Nancy Shimmel

are in charge of  
to help in the Ba



you would like

We will once ag  
year! We made

intastic last  
While doing

your spring cleaning please consider donating slightly used and clean pocketbooks, wallets, change purses, belts, scarves, and costume jewelry. You can bring them in at anytime and give them to Doreen Apgar. Doreen is in charge of the Accessory Shop. If you have any questions or would like to work in the Accessory Shop please see Doreen.

We are always looking for help in Children's Games and Crafts. The games and crafts are already set and they are very easy to manage. We have games, crafts, and face painting. If you are interested in helping out please see Fran Bierwas.

The Deacons will be in charge of the Farm Stand and they will also have a Mum Sale in September. We will be asking for donations of bottled water and cans of soda for the Luncheon.

There will be plenty of areas where you can help out. We will need help the Thursday night before to set up the Accessory Shop and decorate Fellowship Hall. We will need help all day on the day of Autumnfest. Even if you can give us one hour for relief or to take the Vendors their lunches this would be greatly appreciated! If you have any ideas on how we can expand Autumnfest or how you can help please talk to any Fellowship Member. We really can use your prayers that the Community can see God's presence in our smiles and the way we show kindness and love to others in the Community! Thank You all in advance for your generosity of time and donations. God Bless You All!  
Jo-Ann Sisco



**Help Support Our Scholarship Fund:** Extending our past practice of supporting the scholarships of PRC students through a direct contribution, a special envelope has been provided in your envelope packet for this purpose. We will be receiving this special offering on Sunday, May 15. Special gifts and Memorials dedicated to the Scholarship Fund are another important

means of supporting our youth. These gifts are welcome throughout the year. Memorial gifts and donations to the Scholarship Fund are an excellent way to express your belief that religion and education must work together in providing the basic knowledge for our youth to be successful and lead purposeful lives. If you are grateful for the gifts provided for you or a member of our church family, what better way to say thank you than to invest in the youth of our church.

## Opportunities to serve

- ❖ Sunday School Teachers needed for grades K-1 and 2-3
- ❖ Community Garden tenders needed
- ❖ Operations Meeting minutes recorder



★ The Food Pantry is in need of all basic foods and toiletries.

Greetings,

Thank you for your support of my trip to Haiti back in March. It has been a busy past few weeks, I am sorry it has taken so long for me to pull together these pictures to express my thanks and share with you everything that we accomplished during the week. None of it would have been possible without your support and prayers. The link below will take you to the slate page.

Thank you,  
Robert Barrett

<https://slate.adobe.com/cp/7N6RE/>

New Address-

Tom and Mary Bartha, 204 Sunrise Drive, E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301



Submissions happily accepted. Please email to [khuyzers@msn.com](mailto:khuyzers@msn.com) or place in the Mailbox. Last day submissions will be accepted is MONDAY, May 30.

